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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/870,398	05/29/2001	Michael Patrick Connors	0015-013	7479

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EXAMINER

NI, SUHAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2643

DATE MAILED: 02/18/2004

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/870,398

Applicant(s)

CONNORS ET AL.

Examiner

Suhan Ni

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 November 2003.  
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.  
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.  
4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.  
5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.  
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-25 is/are rejected.  
7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.  
8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.  
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).  
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:  
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.  
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.  
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.  
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)  
6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. This communication is responsive to the amendment dated 12/18/2003.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 1, the newly added limitation of "... not suspended from the ear hook ..." in line 8 is indefinite, since it is still suspended from the ear hook in somehow (may not mainly or directly suspended).

Regarding claim 18, the claimed limitation of "the anatomy of the ear" in line 6 is indefinite, since it is not clear what does it refer to.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.
- (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

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3. Claims 1-8, 18-22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Reiter et al. (U. S. Pat. – 5,606,621).

Regarding claims 1 and 18, Reiter et al. disclose a communication earpiece (Fig. 1), comprising: an ear hook (10); an ear bud (18); and a flexible connector (22) for connecting the ear bud to the ear hook as claimed.

Regarding claims 2-3, Reiter et al. further disclose the communication earpiece, wherein the ear hook contains a microphone (12) and the ear bud contains a speaker (20) as claimed.

Regarding claim 4 and 21-22, Reiter et al. further disclose the communication earpiece, wherein the flexible connector is an electrical cable (130) as claimed.

Regarding claims 5-8 and 19-20, Reiter et al. further disclose the communication earpiece, wherein a connector cable (130) for electrically connecting the earpiece to a personal communications device as claimed.

Regarding claim 25, Reiter et al. further disclose the communication earpiece, wherein the ear hook is a full ear hook as claimed.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 9-17 and 23-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reiter et al. (U. S. Pat. – 5,606,621).

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Regarding claim 9-15, Reiter et al. do not clearly teach a two-way communication for a wireless device as claimed. Since providing a local wireless communication between earpiece and base piece is very well known in the art, it therefore would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a local wireless communication between earpiece and base piece for making the earpiece more desirable for the user, such as more mobility and less restraining.

Regarding claims 16-17, Reiter et al. do not clearly teach the details of the ear bud as claimed. Since providing an ear bud or earphone with air-venting capability for partially blocking the ear canal of the user is very well known in the art, it therefore would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide an ear bud or earphone for partially blocking the ear canal of the user for the earpiece as an alternate choice, in order to allow the user to hear more than one sound sources, such as the incoming acoustic signal and the surrounding sound at the same time.

Regarding claims 23-24, Reiter et al. do not clearly teach a connector in a distal end of the connecting cable as claimed. Since providing a connector at a distal end of a cable of an earpiece is very well known in the art, it therefore would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a suitable connector at the distal end of the connecting cable of the earpiece, in order to utilizing the earpiece for establish a communication with a transmitter/receiver.

***Response to Amendment***

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

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***Conclusion***

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new grounds of rejection. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See M.P.E.P. § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE TO THIS FINAL ACTION IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACTION. IN THE EVENT A FIRST RESPONSE IS FILED WITHIN TWO MONTHS OF THE MAILING DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION AND THE ADVISORY ACTION IS NOT MAILED UNTIL AFTER THE END OF THE THREE-MONTH SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD, THEN THE SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD WILL EXPIRE ON THE DATE THE ADVISORY ACTION IS MAILED, AND ANY EXTENSION FEE PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) WILL BE CALCULATED FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THE ADVISORY ACTION. IN NO EVENT WILL THE STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE EXPIRE LATER THAN SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THIS FINAL ACTION.

7. Any response to this final action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

or faxed to:

**(703) 308-9051**, (for formal communications; please mark "EXPEDITED PROCEDURE"), or

**(703) 305-9508**, (for informal or draft communications, please label "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT")

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

**Receptionist, Sixth Floor,  
Crystal Park II,  
2121 Crystal Drive,  
Arlington, Virginia 22202**


8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Suhan Ni** whose telephone number is **(703)-308-9322**, and the

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number for fax machine is (703)-305-9508. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am to 7:30 pm. If it is necessary, the examiner's supervisor, **Curtis Kuntz**, can be reached at (703) 305-4708.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Suhan Ni  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 2643  
USPTO



SUHAN NI  
PATENT EXAMINER

February 13, 2004